## ABSTRACT

A data packet is provided for transmission having a first processing gain for reception at a first power level or higher. The data packet is modified prior to transmission such that the data packet has a preamble wherein data in the preamble has a second processing gain higher than the first processing gain for reception at a second power level lower than the first power level or higher. The user equipment unit transmits the modified data packet over the random access channel at a power level such that the modified data packet is initially received at the base station at at least the second power level. The transmission power level is adaptively controlled while the preamble data is transmitted such that the base station receives the data of the data packet having the first processing gain at least the first power level.